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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

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GERMAN MARKET PROSPECTS AND 1929-30 IMPORTS

The German apple market of 1930-31 should be able to handle more American fruit than in 1929-30, according to information available in the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The outstanding point in favor of heavier imports is the reported short European fruit crops, especially in the important exporting areas. There are indications also that the new season for imported fruit should start earlier than last year. Important factors governing the degree of increase over last year's imports are: The final outturn of the European crops; the size and price of the United States exportable surplus, and the level of German industrial activity. The latter factor is known to be less favorable than at this time last year.

The German consumer appears to prefer a red apple prior to Christmas. Following that period, yellow apples also are popular. Winesap, Rome Beauty, Delicious, Yellow Newtown (Albermarle Pippin) and Ortley varieties are popular in Germany. As to size, the German preference is for 138's and 150's in boxed apples. In barreled apples the preference is for 2½ inch sizes rather than 2¾ inch. In most seasons there is normally a large volume of low grade European grown fruit on the German market. As a result, the import trade usually is not interested in such apples from the United States. In common with the other leading foreign markets for American apples, the German market is only interested in fruit in good condition. Germany imports more boxed apples from the United States than barreled apples, although there is an upward trend in the imports of both.

UNITED STATES: Exports of barreled and boxed apples to Germany with percentages such exports are of the total apple exports, 1925-26 to 1929-30

Export unit and per cent of total export	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30
BOXES:					
1,000's	577	1,237	737	2,695	946
Per cent of tot. export	10.6	15.8	13.7	23.4	15.8
BARRELS:					
1,000's	27	362	27	236	50
Per cent of tot. export	1.4	8.1	2.0	7.9	3.5

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service Division from records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

German apple imports

The total imports of apples by Germany reached the equivalent of 6,729,000 boxes in 1929-30 as compared with 12,150,000 boxes in 1928-29 and 8,102,000 boxes in 1927-28. The total imports of apples in 1929-30 were below those of any of the past five years. This recession in imports is accounted for largely by the large German apple crop and comparatively poor business conditions. Ordinarily the continental crops are fairly well disposed of by Christmas time but this year common storage conditions were good and the fruit held out longer than usual.

An equivalent of 1,090,000 boxes of apples were imported from the United States by Germany in the 1929-30 season. This is about one-fourth of the amount taken by Germany from the United States last season. Although the total apple imports were smaller than in any of the past five years, the 1929-30 imports from the United States were greater than in any season except 1926-27 and 1928-29. In both of those periods the United States surplus available for export was far larger than last season. It would seem, therefore, that good quality apples from the United States are maintaining their popularity in Germany.

United States principal source of German apple imports

Germany buys more apples from the United States than from any other country. On a five year average basis (1925-26 to 1929-30) Germany's apple imports have been supplied in percentage of the total as follows: United States 21.7, Netherlands 13.5, Switzerland 12.6, Italy 10.3, Belgium 8.1, France 7, Austria 4.5, Czechoslovakia 4.2, Rumania 3.9, Hungary 3.5, Yugoslavia 2.4, and all others 8.3. The amount imported from any one country depends on the exportable surplus in that country, German fruit crops and business conditions. Consequently there are large fluctuations in the quantity of apples imported from any one country. However, even in years of large European crops considerable quantities of apples are imported from the United States after Christmas. This is owing to the diminished supplies and usually poor keeping quality of the European apples.

The trend in imports from the United States appears to be upward and those from Italy and France downward. However, the large crop in the Italian Tyrol this year may result in larger imports from Italy. There is always some demand in Germany early in the season for high class American apples to meet the luxury trade. This is mostly taken care of by importations of boxed apples, principally Jonathans.

GERMANY: Imports of apples by countries, 1925-26 to 1929-30 with the percentage represented by each country

Country	1925-26		1926-27		1927-28		1928-29		1929-30	
	1,000 boxes	Per cent	1,000 boxes	Per cent	1,000 boxes	Per cent	1,000 boxes	Per cent	1,000 boxes	Per cent
United States	815	8.5	2,880	29.0	758	9.4	4,534	37.3	1,090	16.2
Holland	2,289	24.0	422	4.2	1,560	19.2	285	2.3	1,734	25.8
Belgium	985	10.3	575	5.8	1,058	13.0	338	2.8	815	12.1
Switzerland	192	2.0	1,452	14.6	1,022	12.6	2,025	16.7	1,153	17.1
Austria	120	1.3	528	5.3	301	3.7	1,111	9.1	34	.5
Italy	1,484	15.5	1,464	14.7	517	6.4	968	8.0	336	5.0
Hungary	546	5.7	345	3.5	369	4.6	182	1.5	194	2.9
Rumania	571	6.0	283	2.8	225	2.8	601	4.9	134	2.0
Yugoslavia	256	2.7	388	3.9	153	1.9	201	1.7	105	1.6
France	1,447	15.2	622	6.3	809	10.0	363	3.0	17	.2
Czechoslovakia	282	3.0	477	4.8	350	4.3	751	6.2	60	.9
Others	559	5.8	506	5.1	940	11.6	791	6.5	1,057	15.7
Total	9,546	100.0	9,941	100.0	8,102	100.0	12,150	100.0	6,729	100.0

Seasonal movement of German imports

The months of heaviest importation of apples into Germany are October, November and December. During these months the majority of the imports are of European fruit. In January the imports from the United States start to assume greater importance and constitute the chief source of supply until May when apples from Australia and New Zealand appear on the German markets. In years of short European crops, imports from the United States become important earlier in the season. In the 1928-29 season the imports from the United States in November were larger than those from any other country and continued so until the end of the season. The following table gives the total imports July to November and the monthly movement December to June of the imports of apples into Germany.

GERMANY: Apple imports by months and countries 1927-28 to 1929-30

Country and season	July-Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Total
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes
1927-28									
United States	60	170	106	108	121	136	32	5	758
Holland	900	241	115	115	119	52	18	1	1,562
Belgium	611	65	39	50	196	79	15	4	1,059
Switzerland	906	54	22	13	19	8	-	-	1,022
Austria	265	19	17	1	-	-	-	-	302
Italy	543	39	40	45	17	12	1	-	517
Hungary	365	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	369
Rumania	204	14	7	1	-	-	-	-	226
Yugoslavia	143	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	153
France	505	229	31	13	11	12	3	1	810
Czechoslovakia	353	26	3	2	2	2	1	-	389

GERMANY: Apple imports by months and countries, 1927-28 to 1929-30 continued

Country and season	July-Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Total
	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes	1,000 boxes
1927-28 cont'd									
Russia	18	7	3	8	1	2	-	-	39
Australia	15	-	1	-	-	17	196	321	550
Others	250	57	13	3	4	1	5	15	348
Total	4,938	950	402	360	490	321	296	345	8,102
1928-29									
United States	784	672	509	368	650	721	653	207	4,534
Holland	230	37	9	2	7	5	4	1	285
Belgium	196	51	24	7	30	20	10	-	338
Switzerland	1,954	55	5	3	6	3	1	-	2,025
Austria	1,011	67	18	9	1	4	1	-	1,111
Italy	803	130	10	8	8	7	2	-	968
Hungary	181	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	182
Rumania	456	116	20	1	1	6	1	-	601
Yugoslavia	183	10	5	1	1	1	-	-	201
France	357	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	363
Czechoslovakia	701	37	8	1	1	3	-	-	751
Russia	117	49	21	7	24	1	10	-	229
Australia	72	-	2	-	-	4	64	133	275
New Zealand	10	-	-	-	-	-	15	32	57
Others	183	24	4	4	7	3	5	-	230
Total	7,198	1,254	633	411	737	778	766	373	12,150
1929-30									
United States	141	110	119	138	212	221	113	36	1,090
Holland	981	413	138	113	63	20	5	1	1,734
Belgium	412	84	43	86	140	47	3	-	815
Switzerland	1,011	99	21	10	12	-	-	-	1,153
Austria	32	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	34
Italy	259	34	20	14	6	3	-	-	336
Hungary	192	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	194
Rumania	120	12	1	1	-	-	-	-	134
Yugoslavia	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	105
France	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Czechoslovakia	53	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	60
Russia	176	49	27	45	38	20	16	1	372
Australia	47	-	1	-	-	1	99	212	360
New Zealand	37	-	-	-	-	1	37	100	175
Others	90	9	3	-	1	15	2	32	150
Total	3,673	816	375	408	473	327	275	382	6,729

Compiled by the Foreign Agricultural Service from Monatliche Nachweisungen über Auswärtigen Handel.

Converted from doublezentners to boxes of 44 pounds.